

Tab 1

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON KS

TOP SECRET

October 8, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Operations in the Vicinity of Libya (U)

Secretary Weinberger has forwarded his "stair-step" plan for increasing U.S. military presence in the vicinity of Libya (attached). Request that the plan be reviewed by the interagency group addressing U.S. policy toward Libya and that recommendations be made to the SIG. (TS)

As I noted in my August 17, 1982 memo* on this subject, there appears to be little distinction between sensitive and non-sensitive U.S. military exercises or operations in the vicinity of Libya. The adoption of a "stair-step" approach serves to further blur any distinction between normal activity and sensitive operations requiring NSC consideration. Request that this issue be included in the interagency review. (TS)

Because of the extreme sensitivity of this issue, it should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis. (U)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Bill

William P. Clark

NSC review completed - may be declassified in full

Attachment

JCS review completed.

cc: The Secretary of Defense

*Memorandum, Subject: Operations in the Vicinity of Libya (U),
August 17, 1982 (TS), Nr. 90609.

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Declassify on: OADR

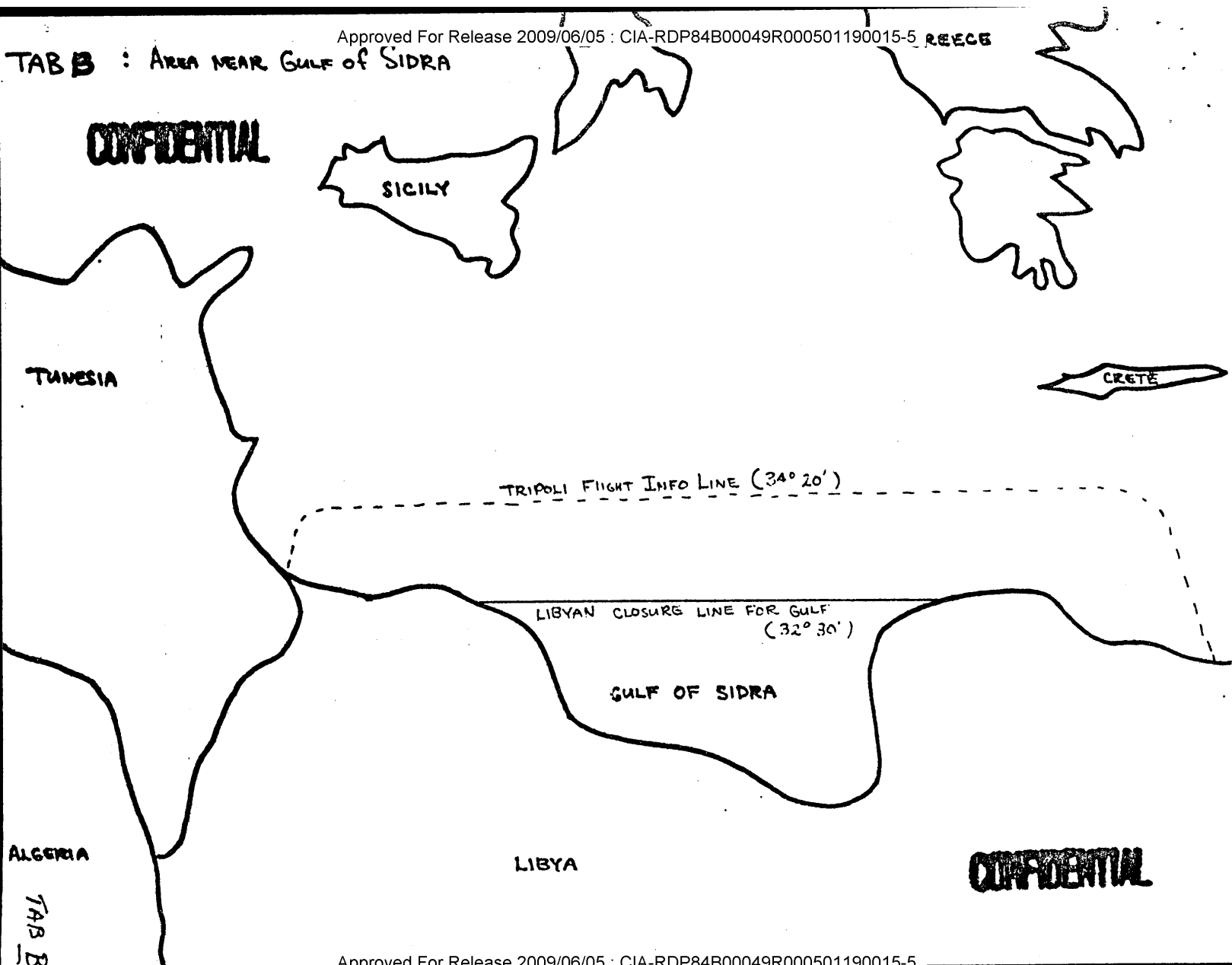
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TAB A

TAB B : AREA NEAR GULF OF SIDRA

CONFIDENTIAL



Subject: US Operations in the Vicinity of the Gulf of Sidra (S)

MAJOR POINTS:

- Oct 73: Permanent representative of Libyan Arab Republic to United Nations announced in a note verbale that the Gulf of Sidra south of 32°30'N was an integral part of Libya and under its complete sovereignty.
- COMSIXTHFLT conducts two-three open ocean missile exercises each year to maintain fleet readiness
 - Gulf of Sidra is best area in Mediterranean to conduct missile firings (located in international waters)
 - Other missile firing ranges available to SIXTHFLT are in controlled airspace which require prior coordination/scheduling
 - Namfi - scheduled through SHAPE HQS; located north of Crete
 - Salto di Querra - controlled by Italians; located southeast of Sardinia
- Jul 77 - Apr 79: SIXTHFLT conducted exercises in Gulf of Sidra on 5 occasions (Jul 77; Mar, Jul, Sep 78; Apr 79)
 - Not all exercises included operations south of 32°30'N nor were they all missile exercises (MISSILEX)
- Open ocean MISSILEX (OOM) and transit activity:
 - 7 Sep 78 OOM: No operations south of 32°30'N
 - 16/17 Feb 79 transit: Flight operations to within 55NM of Libya
 - No Libyan reaction
 - 29 Jul 79 OOM: Two S-3 aircraft conducted surveillance operations south of 32°30'N for approximately eight minutes
 - Libyans protested MISSILEX
 - 20/22 Jan 80 transit: Two surface ships transited across Gulf of Sidra at 32°35'N
 - No Libyan reactions noted

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TAB C

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-- 14 Jun 80 OOM: NOTAM included area south of 32°30'N

--- Note verbale delivered stating that Libya "protests this hostile action and at the same time reserves her right to take all the measures, which she deems appropriate, to defend her rights and legitimate interests within her territorial waters."

--- Libyans declared three airspace restrictions to conduct military training in the same area

--- State (Mr. David Newson) and OSD (Mr. R. W. Komer) requested that no US exercise activity be conducted south of 32°30'N

--- Minimal Libyan reaction to exercise (reconnaissance activity)

-- 21 Sep 80 OOM: NOTAM included area south of 32°30'N

--- Libyans protested operation

--- Libyans declared forces would exercise in same area

--- Libyan air and surface activity and Soviet naval presence temporarily delayed the exercise

---- Portions of the exercise were cancelled

--- Operations south of 32°30'N cancelled

SUMMARY

- During the June and Sep 1980 OOMs, US has cancelled planned activity south of 32°30'N in response to Libyan protests

--- Provided tacit recognition of Libya's illegal maritime claim

- NSC "Navigation and Overflight Policy Paper" approved in Feb 79 states:

-- "US should exercise its rights in the face of illegal claims to the extent practicable and should avoid actions which are viewed as acquiescence in such illegal claims."

SECRET

24 September 1982

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OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF LIBYA
STAIR-STEP APPROACH MATRIX

STEP	CAT	OPERATIONS	LOCATION	NOTICE OF INDENT	DAY/NIGHT	DATES	#CVS USED/IN MED	RISK OF INCIDENT
1-*	1	NOI	FIR	YES	N/A	10 JUL 82	0 / 2	LOW
2-*	1	LIMITED AIR	FIR TO 33°-30'N	NO	DAY	27 JUL 82 1 AUG 82 7 AUG 82	1 / 2	LOW
3-*	1	LIMITED AIR/SURFACE	FIR TO 32°-30'N	YES	BOTH	24 OCT 82	1 / 2	LOW-MED
4	2	LIMITED AIR	SOUTH OF 32°-30'N	MAY	NIGHT	OCT-DEC 82	1 / 2	MED-HIGH
5	2	LIMITED AIR	SOUTH OF 32°-30'N	MAY	DUSK	OCT-DEC 82	1 / 2	MED-HIGH
6	2	LIMITED AIR	SOUTH OF 32°-30'N	MAY	DAY	OCT-DEC 82	1/2 / 1/2	HIGH
7	3	AIR/ SURFACE	SOUTH OF 32°-30'N	MAY	BOTH	21 DEC 82- 4 FEB 83	2 / 2	HIGH
8	3	OPEN OCEAN MISSILE EXERCISE	SOUTH OF 32°-30'N	YES + NOTMARs NOTAMS	DAY	21 DEC 82- 4 FEB 83	2 / 2	HIGH

* - STEP COMPLETE

CLASSIFIED BY: DIRECTOR, J-3
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

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TAB D

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**Routing Slip**

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI		✓		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		✓		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EEO				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/OEA				
16	C/PAD/OEA				
17	SA/IA		✓		
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
20	Mid/NEA	✓			
21					
22					

NSC review completed - unredacted segments may be declassified

Date

Remarks:

2487 (10-81)

ABC
 Executive, Secretary
 11/24/82
 Date

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FORM 26 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

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